

ROAD WARRIORS



Jennifer Heeke | Collegian

K-State leaves the field after its 39-14 win against Texas on Saturday. The Wildcats begin a three-game road trip tomorrow when they take on the Missouri Tigers in Columbia, Mo. Kickoff is set for 11:40 a.m.

K-State prepares for road game against Missouri

Ashley Dunkak
sports editor

The anniversary of last year's K-State-Missouri game won't come until Sunday, the day after the team's battle in Columbia, but the Wildcats haven't forgotten what happened. When they travel to face the Tigers this weekend, they have an opportunity to spoil Senior Day for the Tigers just like the Tigers spoiled Senior Day for the Wildcats in 2009.

"Last year against Missouri, we lost, and we should be playing with a chip on our shoulder because we do not want to lose to them again, especially us seniors," said senior defensive end Antonio Felder.

K-State head coach Bill Snyder described Missouri's defenders as long, athletic and fast, with good height. He said they move around quite a bit, which makes it challenging to play against them but also creates some opportunities for an offense.

Going to the other side of the ball, Missouri ranks 45th in the country in total offense — K-State is 70th, for comparison's sake. Schematically, the Tigers present an offense that's a little different than what the Wildcats have seen so far; over half their snaps come out of the no-back offense. Preparing to defend against that has been one of the challenges for the Wildcats this week.

"It's not difficult to simulate it — you just don't line anybody up in the backfield — but to get the kind of execution they have really is difficult," Snyder said.

While all teams practice against an empty backfield sometimes, Missouri's offense uses the empty backfield differently than other



Matt Binter | Collegian

Senior running back **Daniel Thomas** currently ranks fifth in the nation with 1,102 rushing yards.

teams the Wildcats have played.

"Trying to get accustomed to it is hard for our defense, but it's even harder for our scout squad people to try to simulate, and that makes it not as realistic as we'd like for it to be with our defense," Snyder said.

Tigers junior quarterback Blaine Gabbert has a 15-7 record as a starter, and this season, he became the first Missouri quarterback to get a win over a No. 1

team in the Sooners and the first Missouri quarterback since Corby Jones to defeat Oklahoma. Against K-State last season, he demonstrated toughness by playing through injury and still being able to run some, Snyder said.

Felder said he expects Gabbert to display more versatility in this year's game, using not only his arm to aid the Tigers.

"The difference that I see from him is his maturity

and the fact that he uses his feet more," Felder said. "Last year, he did not really use his feet as much except on a couple of occasions. But I think this year, he wants to run more."

Last week, the K-State defense looked just about as good as it had all season. Snyder said while the team was fortunate to get five interceptions against Texas, K-State's pass rush had an impact on more than one of those, even though it only recorded one sack.

"I find myself guilty of judging our pass rush on the number of sacks we get, but sometimes it is being in the right lane, and we tipped a number of passes during the course of the year, and we tipped one the other night that caused an interception," Snyder said. "It has become a little more productive over the last few ball games. The bottom line is we are getting a little bit better at it. It may not show up statistically as sacks, but it certainly accomplishes what we want to."

As far as offense, the Wildcats have proved capable of scoring major points in several recent Big 12 Conference games: 39 points against Texas, 42 points against Baylor, 59 against Kansas.

When asked who would be starting at quarterback, Snyder answered vaguely that it would depend on how the week of practice panned out. He said both quarterbacks are taking reps in practice, but that is no different than usual.

"Flip a coin. Which one do you want?" he said with a laugh.

Sophomore Collin Klein, the backup quarterback this season, got his first career start against Texas. Klein did

what the Wildcats needed him to do by managing the game, not turning the ball over and rushing for 127 yards. As a matter of fact, he set a K-State record for the most rushing yards by a quarterback in his first start. The previous mark of 119 was held by Ell Roberson, who ran all over USC in 2001.

Carson Coffman, the senior who started at quarterback the first eight games this season, had an ankle injury last week, but Snyder said he is now back to full strength. Whether that means back on the field remains to be seen.

Senior running back Daniel Thomas appreciated having Klein as another set of legs to distract defenders.

"Collin is a great runner and teams have to respect that," Thomas said. "Texas did not know what to expect with Collin because they probably did not see a lot of film on him. Collin opens things up for me and for everybody else, because he is such a threat to run the ball."

Klein said while nine yards of passing got the job done against Texas, he does not think the Wildcats can get away with that against the Tigers. Then again, he would not have thought that would be the case against the Longhorns, either.

"Like I mentioned after the game, if you guys would have told me that we would have beaten Texas the way we did and only had thrown the ball four times, I would have laughed because I would not have believed you," Klein said. "Again, I think we are going to do whatever it takes to win, whether we have to throw the ball 60 times or only four, so we will just see what happens."

BY THE NUMBERS

Numbers to consider when K-State plays the Tigers on Saturday

12

-National ranking of K-State's kickoff return defense

By now you've seen the awesome power of the kick return team, which is ranked as the very best in the nation. But have you noticed the kick return defense unit? It is leading the Big 12 Conference in fewest yards allowed, 19.13, per return. Not only is special teams giving the K-State offense short fields, but it's also giving opposing offenses longer fields.

6

-Big 12 schools in the Top 25 of the BCS rankings

This should leave no doubt that the league is as competitive as ever. Nebraska is No. 8, Oklahoma State is No. 10, Oklahoma is No. 16, Missouri is No. 17, K-State is No. 24 and Texas A&M is No. 25. Having already faced two of those teams, the Wildcats are no stranger to powerful opponents, but they will need to build off Saturday's momentum and take advantage of opportunities to avoid outcomes like the ones against Nebraska and Oklahoma State.

16.3

-Average points allowed by Missouri

The Tigers are less than generous with scoring, it seems. In five of the first six games of the season, Missouri held its opponent to 13 points or fewer. In the past three contests, however, the defense seems to have let up a little. In a shootout against Oklahoma, the Tigers triumphed but surrendered 27 points. That win put them at 7-0 on the season. Now they are on a two-game losing streak, having dropped contests to Nebraska (31-17) and Texas Tech (24-17). K-State has proven that it does indeed have an offense, one capable of either running or passing, depending on the circumstances. If the special teams and defensive units can keep providing the offense with short fields, the Big 12 could see yet another upset.

3

-K-State turnovers in last game vs. Tigers

When the Tigers came in last season and dealt the Wildcats their only home loss of 2009, on Senior Night, they forced three turnovers. K-State quarterback Grant Gregory threw an interception, and there were two fumbles. Obviously, turnover margin is one of the most vital statistics — if not the most vital — in the game of football. If K-State wants a chance to win, it needs to have a turnover margin more like the one it had Saturday, and less like the one it had a year ago.

85

-Percent of the time K-State wins when it scores first

This was a statistic in the football media guide at the beginning of the season, and it has continued to hold true throughout the year. In 2010, the Wildcats are 5-1 when taking the first lead. The only game in which K-State hasn't finished after a strong start has been Oklahoma State. I would suppose this trend is more psychological than anything; scoring right off the bat gives a confidence boost and point from which to build momentum, and, of course, it's always easier to get ahead and stay there than to come from behind.

12

-Points for K-State vs. Missouri last year

The Wildcats struggled to score against the Tigers. They failed to get into the end zone even once in the 2009 Senior Day game. All 12 of K-State's points came on field goals from senior kicker Josh Cherry. While the Wildcats would benefit from similar accuracy from Cherry, it will be easier to win if he's kicking points after touchdowns instead of just field goals

2004

-Last time Missouri lost on Senior Day

The Tigers traditionally do well during the last hurrah for the seniors. The last five senior classes have gone out with a win in Columbia, defeating the likes of Iowa State, K-State, Texas A&M, Kansas and Baylor in those recent years. The Tigers dominated in most of those games, winning by an average of 16.2 points.

-Compiled by Ashley Dunkak

Senior defensive end discusses home life, journey to K-State

Ashley Dunkak
sports editor

Josh Berard always has to have the number 4 on his jersey. It doesn't matter if it's 44 or 45, but it has to have a 4. That was the jersey number of Kevin Ellison, who played running back and linebacker at Redondo Union High School and was "the guy" when Berard moved up to the varsity squad.

"To this day, if you go in my room, there's a picture of him because it's just a motivation," Berard said. "I have a tattoo on my arm that says, 'Be the best,' and that was something Kevin always told me because you can't go wrong being the best. When you strive to be the best, the worst you can be is good."

Ellison, now playing with the Seattle Seahawks of the NFL, told Berard he could be good if he wanted to, if he put in the time and effort. That's what

Berard did.

A senior defensive end for the Wildcats, Berard has been a witness to some major transitions in the past several years: the football team as a whole from former head coach Ron Prince to current head coach Bill Snyder, and his own battle with a serious leg injury that happened in 2008, before his first semester at K-State.

Under Prince, the players would break down in the huddle with the war cry, "Cats!" These days, the word of choice is "Family."

That, Berard said, means something to everybody. He said players all take in newcomers to the team that is the family about which Snyder talks so often.

"It's like an orphanage," Berard said.

See BERARD, Page G4



An inside look at
Josh Berard
#44

DATE OF BIRTH: DEC. 25, 1987
HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 6'1", 213 LBS.
HOMETOWN: REDONDO BEACH, CALIF.
YEAR: SENIOR
POSITION: DEFENSIVE END
CAREER GAMES PLAYED: 8

MATCHING UP



vs.



OFFENSE



Last weekend, K-State fans were obviously caught off guard when the Wildcats' starting quarterback wore No. 7 instead of No. 14. In his first career start, sophomore Collin Klein torched the Texas defense for 127 yards and a pair of touchdowns on the ground. But, as strong as he was in the running game, the K-State passing attack suffered tremendously. Klein threw just four passes in the game, completing two of them for nine yards.

Despite watching Klein lead K-State to a comfortable win, head coach Bill Snyder said on Tuesday that the starting position is still up for grabs. Senior Carson Coffman, the starter in every other game this season, is allegedly back to full strength after suffering a high ankle sprain, so how K-State's offense performs will depend heavily on who is taking snaps.

As several Wildcats alluded to in this week's press conference, Klein's mobility helped open things up for the rest of K-State's rushing attack. Senior running back Daniel Thomas put up 106 yards - an average day by his standards - but he did

so on just 18 carries. That's a significant stat, considering he entered the contest averaging 24.5 carries a game.

Unlike K-State, Missouri has had a clear-cut leader at quarterback since the beginning of the season in junior Blaine Gabbert. He has racked up 2,193 passing yards and 12 touchdowns through nine games. More importantly, he's only been picked off four times this season. The Wildcats' defense is coming off a performance in which it intercepted Texas quarterback Garrett Gilbert five times, and though it's highly unlikely that will happen again, K-State will need to force Gabbert into mistakes to pull off an upset.

Missouri hasn't been the most effective team on the ground this season, mainly because no running back has really emerged as a go-to guy. Junior De'Vion Moore is the team's leading rusher, but has only posted 368 yards.

While the Tigers may not have much of a ground game, Gabbert's poise and K-State's uncertainty at quarterback gives Missouri the offensive edge.



DEFENSE



Statistically, neither squad enters this matchup with a defense worth writing home about. Missouri ranks No. 62 nationally in total defense, while the Wildcats come in quite a bit lower than that at No. 101.

Despite its low ranking, the K-State defensive unit did more than enough to beat Texas handily last weekend in Manhattan.

The story of the night was obviously the five interceptions against Gilbert - two each by safeties Ty Zimmerman and Tysyn Hartman, and one by cornerback Stephen Harrison. Equally as impressive was the Wildcats' ability to stop the run. The Longhorns didn't keep it on the ground very often, but when they did, K-State was ready. The Wildcats entered the game ranked dead last nationally in rushing defense, but held Texas to just 140 yards on 26 carries.

Missouri's ground game has been somewhat lacking this season, but Gabbert has done enough through the air to lead the Tigers to a 7-2 record. If

the Wildcats want to leave with a win tomorrow, they'll have to have another strong day against one of the best quarterbacks in the Big 12.

Fortunately for the Wildcats, Missouri has allowed an average of 147.6 rushing yards a game this season. That stat will loom even larger if Snyder elects to start Klein over Coffman again, as K-State put up 261 rushing yards last weekend against a Texas defense that has been stronger against the run than the Tigers.

That being said, the Missouri secondary will likely be licking its chops if Klein gets the start. Snyder said on Tuesday that he didn't limit the sophomore to four passing attempts because of his throwing ability, but that number still seems a little alarming. Another non-existent passing day would allow Missouri to stack the box and potentially cause problems for K-State's offense.

Regardless of last weekend's showing, the numbers don't lie. Missouri's defense is ranked significantly higher than K-States, and therefore gets the advantage.



SPECIAL TEAMS



Last weekend, senior kick returner William Powell almost scored his second special teams touchdown of the season on the opening kickoff. He took it to the Texas 38-yard line, which set up K-State's first touchdown of the night. The Wildcats' block units came up big twice, stopping the Longhorns on a fake field goal attempt, as well as a fake punt attempt.

As if that wasn't enough, senior kicker Josh Cherry got himself in the highlight reel in the final home game of his career. Following K-State's final touchdown of the night, Cherry's extra point attempt was blocked, but he picked it up, rolled to the left and beat a Texas defender to the goal line for a two-point conversion.

Despite leaving the game after being hit, sophomore punter Ryan Doerr enjoyed another solid outing. Doerr has punted 40 times for an average

of 42 yards this season.

The Tigers have posted one return touchdown this season, but it wasn't by their main return guy. Sophomore Gahn McGaffie returned a kick 86 yards for a touchdown earlier this season against Oklahoma, but the bulk of the return duties have gone to freshman Marcus Murphy. Murphy has returned 13 kickoffs this season for an average of 21.2 yards.

Tiger kicker Grant Ressel has been reliable this season, as he's 15 of 17 attempts. He hasn't missed from inside 40 yards since his first attempt of the season. Punter Matt Grabner has also been consistent this year, as he's averaged 44.1 yards on 48 punts.

Both teams are strong in this department, but like most weeks, Powell's ability to consistently break long returns gives K-State a slim special teams advantage.

PREDICTION

**MISSOURI 31
K-STATE 21**

Just like K-State's story last weekend against Texas, Missouri has plenty of reasons to give a little extra effort in this game. Since gaining sole possession of first place in the Big 12 North standings on Oct. 23, the Tigers have dropped their last two contests and all but eliminated themselves from contention for a division title.

As if a two-game losing streak isn't enough incentive, it's the last home game of the season for their senior class. Missouri hasn't lost at home this season, and will look to keep that perfect record intact. Also worth noting: the Tigers haven't lost to the Wildcats since the final game of the 2005 regular season - ironically, the final game of Snyder's first tenure in Manhattan.

The uncertainty surrounding K-State's quarterbacks doesn't help the Wildcats' cause as tomorrow's matchup draws closer. While not knowing the starter will keep the Tigers on their toes until the game starts, both candidates have obviously shown flaws. With Klein under center, the pass game is virtually non-existent. With Coffman under center, Thomas is the only credible threat out of the backfield.

Bottom line: outside of Gabbert, Missouri doesn't necessarily have a stellar offensive weapon, but the Tigers have still posted decent numbers and a solid record in 2010. It's unlikely that the Wildcats will repeat last week's defensive performance against Gabbert, so look for the Tigers to win by more than one score.

-Compiled by Justin Nutter

K-States chance of an upset looks slim for this weekend



Tyler Scott

Bowling is in the bag for K-State after a triumph over the Texas Longhorns last week. Tomorrow, the team goes back on the road to Columbia, Mo., to take on the Tigers. Missouri boasts a perfect 5-0 this season at on its home turf at Faurot Field.

K-State's victory against Texas may have been expected from a lot of people, but one thing that I didn't expect was to see sophomore Collin Klein start at quarterback instead of Coffman. Don't get me wrong: I'm on the bandwagon of benching Coffman and bringing in a more mobile quarterback.

Besides, look at the stats. Although Klein didn't have the passing game in his repertoire, he ran for 127 yards and two touchdowns against a defense that was stifling against Nebraska, which led to the benching of Husker signal-caller Taylor Martinez two weeks ago.

Senior running back Daniel Thomas also had another solid game, gaining 106 yards and two scores on the ground, while also eclipsing the 1,000 yard mark for the season. Let me also mention that even though fellow senior William Powell hasn't been a big threat on the ground this year on offense, his special teams play has been great. His opening kickoff of 62 yards sparked the team for the whole game and K-State only needed two plays to score the first points of the game. So Powell, if you're reading this, I'm sorry I haven't given you the credit you deserve.

Back to the quarterback issue. I guess Snyder finally gave the fans what they wanted: a new starting quarterback - hopefully. If Klein does start once again

tomorrow, he will go up against a defense that has struggled in more than one area against opposing offenses. Missouri gives up an average of 147 yards a game on the ground, while surrendering 220 yards through the air. Fortunately for the Tigers, they don't have to worry about the passing offense of K-State because it was nonexistent against Texas. For those of you who didn't catch the game, the Wildcats only had nine passing yards.

On the offensive side for the Tigers, quarterback Blaine Gabbert is putting up another solid season. So far, he has passed for almost 2,200 yards and has 12 touchdowns to just four interceptions. Despite the release of running back Derrick Washington before the season started, Missouri has had a number of players contribute on the ground. De'vion Moore leads the way with 368 yards and five touchdowns, while Henry Josey has 342 yards and four scores.

The Tigers' defense only has one more interception on the year than K-State, thanks to five interceptions thrown by Longhorn quarterback Garrett Gilbert last weekend. K-State is also second in the conference in rushing yards per game, while Missouri is seventh.

This is probably the last real test of the season for K-State, as the team will look to prove why it should play in a bowl this season. The Wildcats also don't have any more home games, so K-State Nation will have to tune in via television or radio for the rest of the year.

With Missouri having a perfect home record and a high impact offense, I don't see K-State fairing very well this week. After this game, the season looks more promising down the road. However, against the Tigers I think they are too much for K-State to handle. I see Missouri pulling out an easy win against K-State.

Tyler Scott is a senior in journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to sports@spub.ksu.edu.

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BIG 12 NORTH STANDINGS		
TEAM	RECORD	NEXT GAME
Nebraska	8-1 (4-1)	vs. Kansas
Missouri	7-2 (3-2)	vs. K-State
K-State	6-3 (3-3)	at Missouri
Iowa State	5-5 (3-3)	at Colorado
Kansas	3-6 (1-4)	at Nebraska
Colorado	3-6 (0-5)	vs. Iowa State

BIG 12 SOUTH STANDINGS		
TEAM	RECORD	NEXT GAME
Oklahoma State	8-1 (4-1)	at Texas
Baylor	7-3 (4-2)	vs. Texas A&M
Texas A&M	6-3 (3-2)	at Baylor
Oklahoma	7-2 (3-2)	vs. Texas Tech
Texas Tech	5-4 (3-4)	at Oklahoma
Texas	4-5 (2-4)	vs. Oklahoma State

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SCOUTING REPORT



STRENGTHS

- WR** 29 Jerrell Jackson
- TE** 77 Dan Hoch
- RT** 66 Austin Wuebbels
- RG** 62 Tim Barnes
- C** 71 Jayson Palmgren
- LG** 72 Elvis Fisher
- LT** 28 T.J. Moe
- CB** 19 Carl Gettis
- DE** 3 Jacquies Smith
- DT** 93 Terrell Resonno
- DT** 91 Jimmy Burge
- DE** 85 Aldon Smith
- CB** 20 Kevin Rutland
- LB** 25 Zaviar Gooden
- LB** 32 Will Ebner
- LB** 6 Andrew Gachkar
- SS** 13 Kenji Jackson
- FS** 11 Jarrell Harrison

WEAKNESSES

- QB** 26 De'Vion Moore
- WR** 8 Wes Kemp

Callout Boxes:

- MICHAEL EGNEW TIGHT END #82**
After catching just three passes for 25 yards a year ago, Egnew, a junior, as been quarterback Blaine Gabbert's favorite receiving target this season. Through nine games, he leads the team with 66 receptions for 531 yards, as well as three touchdowns.
- BLAINE GABBERT QUARTERBACK #11**
Gabbert, a junior, has emerged as one of the Big 12's top quarterbacks in 2010. He's thrown for 2,193 yards in 2010 to push his career total to 5,829. The Missouri native has also thrown 12 touchdown passes this season and has only been intercepted four times.

No. 20 Missouri Tigers (7-2 Overall, 3-2 Big 12 Conference)

STRENGTHS

Quarterback: Last weekend, K-State's defense was a nightmare for Texas quarterback Garrett Gilbert. The Wildcats forced the sophomore into five interceptions and kept him on the run throughout the course of the game.

K-State is in for a much bigger challenge tomorrow, as Missouri has on of the Big 12's top signal callers in junior Blaine Gabbert. Gabbert has led the Tigers to a 7-2 record and No. 20 national ranking this season. In doing so, he's racked up 2,193 passing yards and 12 touchdowns, compared to just four interceptions.

It's likely that Wildcat defenders remember what Gabbert did to K-State last season on senior day. He threw for 298 yards and three scores as the Tigers handed the Wildcats a 38-12 defeat - their first and only loss at home last season.

Offensive line: A big reason for Gabbert's success in 2010 has been the protection he's received from the Tigers' starting front five. Led by center Tim Barnes, a senior and third-year starter, the offensive line possesses plenty of experience. Every starter has been with the team since at least 2008.

As mentioned before, it all starts in the middle with Barnes, who will make his 37th consecutive start tomorrow against the Wildcats. On either side of the Tiger center are junior guards Jayson Palmgren and Austin Wuebels. Palmgren is a first-year starter, but saw time in every game last season. Wuebels has started every game since the beginning of last season.

Protecting the outside for the Tigers are juniors Elvis Fisher and Dan Hoch. Fisher has started every game since his freshman season, while Hoch has been a starter since the start of 2009.

Tight end: As was made apparent with the emergence of Tiger great Chase Coffman - the brother of K-State quarterback Carson Coffman - the Tigers like to throw to their tight ends early and often. This year has been no exception, as junior Michael Egnew has been Gabbert's favorite target through nine games. He currently leads the team with 66 receptions for 531 yards and three scores.

K-State's pass defense obviously took a big step forward last weekend, but the Wildcats will need another big day against the Tigers, as Egnew isn't even close to Missouri's only legitimate receiving threat.

Wide receiver: There were some questions as to who would emerge as Missouri's top receiver after Danario Alexander's departure to the NFL, but the Tigers have seemingly silenced any doubters. Sophomore T.J. Moe has led the

charge with a team-high 758 yards and four touchdowns.

Moé hasn't been the only weapon in Missouri's receiving corps. He has been complemented by juniors Wes Kemp and Jerrell Jackson, who have combined for 736 yards and six scores. Look for K-State's pass defense to face a big test this weekend against one of the most balanced passing attacks it's seen all season.

Linebacker: From a statistical standpoint, Missouri's defense has been pretty average this season, but the Tigers' linebacking corps has emerged as the team's top defensive unit this season.

The starters have been anchored by senior Andrew Gachkar, who leads the team with 63 total tackles - 4.5 behind the line of scrimmage. He leads fellow linebacker Zaviar Gooden, a sophomore, by just four tackles. Gooden has caused problems for opposing backfields, as he's re-

corded six tackles for loss and three sacks.

The middle linebacker position has been manned by junior Will Ebner, who is tied for seventh on the team with 32 stops.

Secondary: Simply put, the Missouri defensive backs have done it all this season. The unit, which features three seniors and a junior, has played a significant role in a pass defense that has recorded 12 interceptions this season. As if that hasn't been enough, all four starters rank in the team's top-seven in total tackles.

WEAKNESSES

Running back: The Tigers' ground attack took a big hit when running back Derrick Washington was released prior to the start of the season. Since then, nobody has really emerged as a go-to guy out of the backfield for the Tigers. Junior De'Vion Moore cur-

rently leads the team in rushing, but he's averaging just 40.9 yards per game. Fellow tailback Henrey Josey, a freshman, has posted similar numbers, as he's averaging 38 yards per contest. The duo has combined for nine touchdowns.

Defensive line: It may seem strange to consider the defensive front four a weakness on a team that has recorded 26 sacks, but a quick look at the stat sheet shows that only seven have been a product of tomorrow's starters. Another significant stat is the 147.6 rushing yards the Tigers have allowed per game.

That could mean a big day for K-State running back Daniel Thomas, and an even bigger day if head coach Bill Snyder elects to start quarterback Collin Klein, who ran for 127 yards against a Texas defense that is allegedly stronger than that of Missouri.

-Compiled by Justin Nutter

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BERARD | Senior redshirted under former coach Ron Prince in 2008



Senior defensive end **Josh Berard** tackles a ball carrier during K-State's win against Texas on Saturday. The California native has seen time in eight games since joining the Wildcats in 2008.

Continued from Page G1


"We're all family here. If one of us has a problem we all have a problem, but we're going to help each other through it." Growing up an only child, Berard has enjoyed the family atmosphere. It especially

helped him to have his teammates behind him and encouraging him daily as he went through rehab for his injury. "I think it's amazing just because I've always wanted to have brothers, and I got exactly what I asked for," Berard said. "You can't ask for more. You want brothers? God's given me 105." Berard said the camaraderie with Snyder at the helm has been awesome. He said the players really just came together. "I really felt like when coach Snyder first came here, we had a lot of things to take care of, and it wasn't all on the field," Berard

said. "It's like that sometimes; that's rough. I just feel like a lot of people have really evolved into some great leaders, and coach Snyder, he teaches us so much just in terms of how important it is to have a leader, and either you're going to be a leader or you're going to follow a leader. I think that fi-

nally that everyone has taken a side and become a leader or a follower. And there's nothing wrong with being a follower if you really believe in what your leader is." Snyder also emphasizes discipline to his players, but in an indirect way. Berard said it is amazing how he does it because he does not just come out and say to be disciplined in football; he wants the players to be disciplined about life in general. "For instance, we understand that when we're traveling to go play somewhere, it's a game, but it's a business trip," Berard said. "And now we don't just get dressed up in some nice warm-ups; we put on a suit; a tie, and I think that represents turning it on. This is the mindset: I'm a businessman; I'm in a suit and a tie, I'm going to go to do this, check in, check out." Berard likes that approach because discipline is necessary to play football; there is a direct correlation between how disciplined a team is and how well it performs. "Everybody has a job," he said. "You do your job, you'll be successful, and that's what we're learning." Berard, who has already graduated with a degree in sociology and an emphasis in psychology, is currently working on a minor in leadership. When he decides where he wants to live, he wants to go into counseling. Rewind a couple years, back to when Berard, who also played baseball growing up, transferred to K-State from El Camino Community College. The junior got his leg rolled up on, and in an instant football dropped on his list of priori-

ties. On the cart after his injury, Berard asked the attendant when he would be back practicing. The response was, "We'll work on walking." It was then Berard began to realize the situation for what it was. "I'm not a doctor, but I don't think that sounds good," he recalled thinking. Still, he remained optimistic. Then the doctor came into the room. "He said, 'Oh!'" Berard imitated the physician with a shocked look to accompany the exclamation. While there is a specific term for his injury, he finds it simplest to describe by its components. The ACL tore; the LCL tore; the hamstring ripped. His rehabilitation took nine months. "I'm not going to tell anybody it's easy, but it's doable," Berard said. Rehab encompassed his first semester at K-State, which made getting to classes difficult initially. It took a hike from the K-State Student Union to Umberger Hall for Berard to discover the disability shuttle, which he recommends to anyone with any kind of injury, he said. These days, Berard appreciates his health more. "I'm just grateful to be able to walk and run," he said. "Like I said, I played baseball. That just means, basically, I'm an athlete. That's just what I do; I do sports, and it was taken away from me." It was a reality check for Berard. These days, running elicits no complaints from him. He just runs as far as he can, grateful to once again have the ability to do so.




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-Coach Bill Snyder

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-Running back Daniel Thomas

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